

## Upper Bitterroot River Recreation Rules Comment Analysis

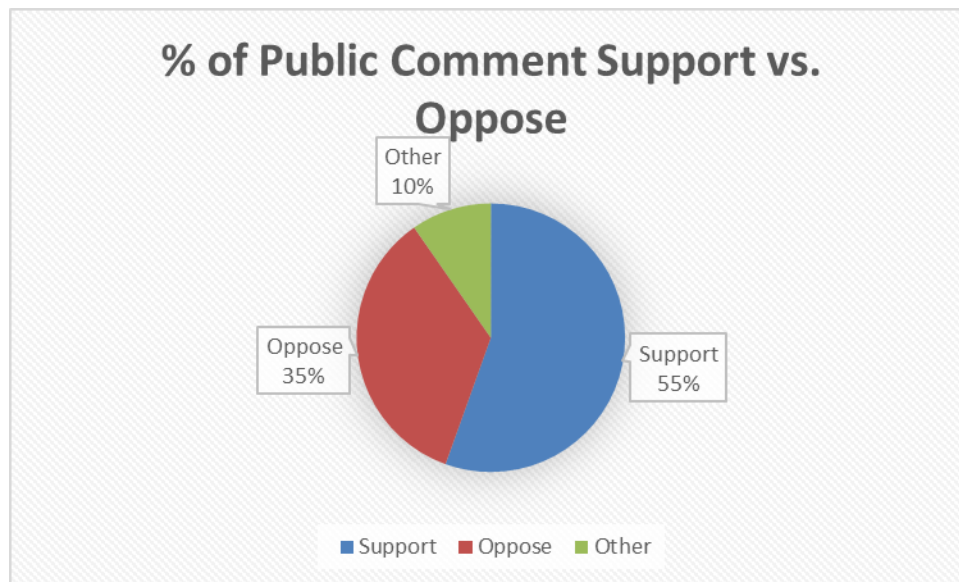
155 total comments (86 Support, 54 Oppose, 15 other)

### Hearings

Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3 comments in Missoula

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 18 comments in Hamilton

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - 4 comments in Butte



86 comments support a regulation (55% of total)

Supports regulation as written (40 comments or 25% of total)

- Groups supporting the regulation as written: Bitterroot TU, Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers

Top reasons:

1. Reduces commercial traffic
2. Gives non-commercial opportunities
3. Respect for the process and product (consensus with diverse stakeholders)
4. Provides wade only opportunity

Supports regulation but not as written (46 comments or 30% of total)

- Groups supporting but not as written: Public Lands and Water Access Association

Top reasons:

1. Level of restriction not right (most wanted more restrictions on commercial use)
2. Unintended consequences are possible (concentrates use on other parts of the river)
3. Not enough opportunity for wade anglers

## 54 comments oppose the regulation (35% of total)

Groups opposed: Anglers for Common Sense form letter and newspaper ad (229 names)

### Top Reasons:

1. Economic impact on Ravalli County from limiting outfitters
2. Unfairly targeting outfitters
3. Will not reduce crowding and could move pressure elsewhere
4. Does not allocate days based on historic use
5. Data (not enough, invalid)
6. Safety
7. Conflicts are exaggerated

15 comments (10% of total) did not focus on the proposal (lots of barbless hook comments)

## Breakdown of Comments

### 27 Outfitter/Guide Comments

13 Support

14 Oppose

### 23 Out of state

10 Support

13 Opposed (10 clients of outfitters)

### 9 Landowners

9 Support